

17/3/21



Dear Parent/ Carer,

Last night, I received confirmation from the Department of Education of a change to our Restart arrangements.

I am delighted to say that we will **resume face-to-face teaching for all children (Nursery - P7) from Monday 22nd March**. We are looking forward to having all of our children back in school again; to hearing them laugh and chat and to see them enjoying being with friends again.

Please do continue to be vigilant about the dangers posed by Covid19. As we haven't had our whole school community together since before Christmas, I wanted to remind you of some of the steps we're taking to keep everyone safe and prevent disruption to our children's learning.

We will resume with our protective bubble approach ensuring that, as far as possible, class bubbles are not mixing with each other.

Drop Off/ Pick Up

- The Department of Education are encouraging parents to wear a face covering when on the school grounds. Please practice social distancing on the school site and do not gather in groups.
- As before, children will enter the school building through separate entrances.
 - Nursery – through their entrance at the side of the school
 - P1/2 – will be met by staff at the main doors
 - LSC – enter through the main doors
 - P3/4/7 – enter up the ramp by first side door
 - P5/6 – enter through the second side door

Please do not gather outside these entrances, either at drop off time in the morning, or at pick up time. As before, you should leave your child at either the main entrance or at the green pedestrian gates at the end of the footpath in front of the school and then leave the school site.

Drop off time in the morning is between 8.45 – 9.00am

- Children should be picked up at the following times. They will be dismissed from the same place that they are dropped off at in the morning.
 - Nursery 1 – 1.15pm.
 - P1 1.50pm (1.45pm Friday)
 - P2 1.50pm (1.45pm Friday)
 - P3 2.00pm (1.50pm Friday)
 - P4 2.50pm (1.50pm Friday)
 - P5 2.50pm (2.00pm Friday)
 - P6/P7 3.00pm (2.00pm Friday)
 - LSC As arranged with transport

School Meals

School meals will continue to be served in the classroom. Paid and Free School Meals will be available.

Health

Please do not send your child to school if:

- they are displaying any of the symptoms associated with Covid19 (Persistent cough/ High Temperature/ Change in sense of taste or smell)
- anyone in your household is displaying any of the symptoms associated with Covid19
- anyone in your household is awaiting the result of a Covid 19 test – even if they have no symptoms

Please be aware that your 'household' may include other members of your extended or blended family. For example, if your child goes to stay overnight with a relative or parent in another house.

Thank you

As we approach the end of this unexpected period of home learning, I want to say a very sincere thank you - to you as parents and carers and, publicly, to our staff team here in West Winds.

When we all said 'Merry Christmas' to each other in December, we didn't foresee that that would be last time we would see each other for three months. We know that this period of lockdown has been really challenging for children, for families and for staff. Though we had more time to be prepared and were better able to deliver remote learning this time, we know that it is never the same as having children in school. As a staff team we want to pay tribute to the efforts made by parents and carers to get up to speed with remote learning. We want to say thank you to you for the times that you had to direct your child away from something else they would rather be doing, to what we had set for them to learn at home. We know it hasn't been easy but we appreciate all that you have done.

To many of you, I am still a relatively new face about West Winds. It has been a strange time to start a new job and I have missed all of the events and opportunities to get to know parents that we would normally have. I do want to pay tribute to our whole staff team here in West Winds and for how they have 'stepped up' during the last months. Staff have gone above and beyond in terms of supporting the children here; whether that be through keeping the school running, or looking after children in school, or learning how to deliver remote learning. As a community of parents and carers I know you would want to add your thanks to mine in acknowledging the efforts made by our staff team.

I am very proud to lead this team of people here and I look forward to seeing our school develop and flourish in the months and years to come.

I look forward to seeing you all at the gate, next Monday morning!

Yours,



Niall Manogue
Principal

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